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Ouachita National Forest Recognizes Outstanding Employees

The Ouachita National Forest recently selected Sally Cross, Fire Team Assistant for the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests as Business Management Employee of the Year for 2008. Leon Stovall, Engineering Technician on the Mena/Oden Ranger District was selected as Technician of the Year for 2008. The awards, which were presented earlier this month, recognized the employees' exceptional work accomplishments and commitment to achieving the goals and objectives of the Forest.

"Sally is very dedicated to her job and to the Forest Service. She is always willing to take on a challenge and always provides excellent results in what she pursues. Her work ethics are great and her goal is to provide the best service she can to the agency by doing whatever is required for us to meet our goals and objectives," stated Glen Fortenberry, Fire Team Leader for the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. "Sally is always helpful and friendly anytime she is dealing with the public, and with other Forest employees. She is always willing to help find answers to questions. She shows the spirit of what our agency should expect from each of our employees," continued Fortenberry.

The forest 2008 Technician of the Year is stationed on the Mena/Oden Ranger District. "Leon is instrumental in providing on the ground knowledge to facilitate road locations, road design recommendations, road construction staking, and road construction inspections for the Mena and Oden Ranger District's timber program. He is an invaluable member of the interdisciplinary team responsible for completing roads related National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the four watershed projects that the Mena and Oden accomplishes each fiscal year. He is also a member of the district's Fire Suppression Team, stated District Ranger Jim Zornes. "While maintaining a level of excellence on his home district, Leon has also demonstrated his dedication to the forest by assisting the districts in Oklahoma and the Caddo and Womble districts with road location, road design recommendations, road construction staking, and road construction inspections for the last several years," continued Zornes.

(more)

“Sally and Leon exemplify the spirit of teamwork whether they are assisting individual districts, surrounding offices, employees in the Supervisor’s Office, or members of the public,” stated Forest Supervisor Norman Wagoner. “We are fortunate to have many outstanding employees, including Sally and Leon, working throughout the Forest, and it’s an honor to recognize some of the employees who demonstrate the spirit of the Forest,” continued Wagoner.

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